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C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 001028

DEPT FOR AF/W DORSEY LOCKHART  
DRL FOR CARRIE E. FLINCHBAUGH AND THOMAS KNOX

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/17/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNGA](#) [UV](#)  
SUBJECT: BURKINA FASO POSITION ON UNGA RESOLUTION ON THE DEFAMATION  
OF RELIGION

Classified by Samuel C. Laeuchli, Deputy Chief of Mission, for  
reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) On November 17, DCM, accompanied by POLOFF, discussed the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA) vote on the defamation-of-religion resolution with Vincent Zakane, Chief of Staff at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), and Der Kogda, the Director General of Multilateral Affairs. Zakane understood U.S. concerns about the defamation resolution presented by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Zakane told the DCM that Burkina Faso is a tolerant country that has respect for all religions as well as respect for liberty. Likewise, Zakane noted that Burkina Faso does not have problems associated with intolerance and extremism. In principle, Zakane felt the U.S. and Burkina Faso held the same position about defamation of religion. However, Zakane said that it would be difficult for Burkina Faso to vote against the OIC, of which it is a member, on a resolution introduced by that organization.

¶2. (C) Comment: Post believes that Burkina Faso will either abstain or will not vote on the resolution at all, as it did last year.

JACKSON